

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for performing on a computer system one or more form independent application program operations on at least one Information Management System (IMS) resource comprising:

(a) locating ~~an actual~~ a Program Communication Block (PCB) associated with said at least one IMS resource exclusive of predetermined knowledge pertaining to an IMS construct form, and

(b) utilizing said ~~actual~~ PCB to perform said one or more form independent application program operations on said at least one IMS resource.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said IMS resource is a database.

3. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein said database is of a type selected from the group consisting of Data Entry Databases (DEDB), Hierarchic Direct Access Method (HDAM) and Hierarchic Indexed Direct Access Method (HIDAM).

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said application program operations include unloading said database.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said application program operations include loading said database.

6. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said IMS construct form depends from the choice of programming language used to generate a Program Specification Block (PSB).

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said IMS construct form depends from the order of PCBs associated with said PSB.

8. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said application program operations are invoked from an application program executing in an IMS region selected from the group consisting of Batch Message Processing (BMP), Data Language One (DL/I), Database Management Batch (DBB), Message Processing Program (MPP) and Interactive Fast Path (IFP).

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein locating ~~an actual~~ a PCB further comprises locating an Input/Output (I/O) PCB.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein locating ~~an actual~~ a PCB further comprises locating a database PCB.

11. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said PSB is associated with a language selected from the group consisting of COBOL, Assembly Language, PL/I, PASCAL and C.

12. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein said IMS construct form additionally depends from the quantity of PCBs associated with said PSB.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein utilizing said ~~actual~~-PCB comprises utilizing said I/O PCB to perform checkpoint processing.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein step (a) comprises the steps of:

(a1) locating a first candidate PCB,

(a2) determining if said first candidate PCB is said ~~actual~~-PCB, and

(a3) if said first candidate PCB is not said ~~actual~~-PCB, utilizing said first candidate PCB as a pointer to locate said ~~actual~~-PCB.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein said determining step comprises verifying that a name field of said first candidate PCB consists of only printable characters.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 wherein said locating step comprises the steps of:

(a1.1) utilizing a register 13 to access a program save area,

(a1.2) utilizing an ~~a~~ High Save Area (HSA) pointer from said program save area to access a calling program's save area,

(a1.3) utilizing a saved register 1 from said calling program's save area to access a parameter list, and

(a1.4) utilizing a parameter list entry from said parameter list to access said first candidate PCB.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 ~~wherein the steps of claim 14 further comprise~~ further comprising:

(a4) comparing a NAME field of said ~~actual~~ PCB with the name of said IMS resource to determine if said ~~actual~~ PCB is associated with said IMS resource,

(a5) checking a high order bit of said parameter list entry if said ~~actual~~ PCB is not associated with said IMS resource, and

(a6) obtaining a second candidate PCB by utilizing a next sequential parameter list entry from said parameter list and repeating steps (a2) through (a6) substituting said second candidate PCB for said first candidate PCB if said high order bit is not "1".

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein step (a5) further comprises generating an error condition if said high order bit is "1".

19. (Previously Amended) A method for performing an application program operation on at least one Information Management System (IMS) database comprising:

(a) ensuring the existence of IMS constructs representing said at least one IMS database without regard for construct form, and

(b) executing a construct form independent application program for performing said application program operation on said IMS database.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer system for performing one or more form independent application program operations on at least one Information Management System (IMS) resource comprising:

- (a) a computer,
- (b) computer program first instructions executing on said computer for locating an ~~actual~~ a Program Communication Block (PCB) associated with said at least one IMS resource exclusive of predetermined knowledge pertaining to an IMS construct form, and
- (c) computer program second instructions executing on said computer for performing said one or more form independent application program operations on said at least one IMS resource utilizing said ~~actual~~ PCB.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein said IMS resource is a database.

22. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 21 wherein said database is of a Hierarchic Direct Access Method (HDAM) type.

23. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein said application program operations include unloading said database.

24. (Original) The system of claim 21 wherein said application program operations include loading said database.

25. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 20 wherein said IMS construct form depends from the choice of programming language used to generate a Program Specification Block (PSB).

26. (Original) The system of claim 25 wherein said IMS construct form depends from the order of PCBs associated with said PSB.

27. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 20 wherein said application program operations are invoked from an application program executing in an IMS Batch Message Processing (BMP) region.

28. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 27 wherein said computer program first instructions locate an Input/Output (I/O) PCB.

29. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein said computer program first instructions locate a database PCB.

30. (Original) The system of claim 25 wherein said PSB is associated with COBOL.

31. (Original) The system of claim 26 wherein said IMS construct form additionally depends from the quantity of PCBs associated with said PSB.

32. (Original) The system of claim 28 wherein said computer program second instructions use said I/O PCB to perform message queue processing.

33. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20 wherein said computer program first instructions perform a method for locating said ~~actual~~-PCB, said method comprising:

- (a1) locating a first candidate PCB,
- (a2) determining if said first candidate PCB is said ~~actual~~-PCB, and
- (a3) locating said ~~actual~~-PCB utilizing said first candidate PCB if said first candidate PCB is not said ~~actual~~-PCB.

34. (Original) The system of claim 33 wherein (a2) comprises verifying that a name field of said first candidate PCB consists of only printable characters.

35. (Original) The system of claim 33 wherein (a1) comprises:

- (a1.1) locating a program save area,
- (a1.2) locating a calling program's save area utilizing said program save area,
- (a1.3) locating a parameter list utilizing said calling program's save area, and
- (a1.4) locating said first candidate PCB utilizing said parameter list.

36. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 33 further comprising:

- (a4) determining if said ~~actual~~-PCB is associated with said IMS resource,

(a5) checking for the existence of a second candidate PCB if said ~~actual~~-PCB is not associated with said IMS resource, and

(a6) repeating (a2) through (a6) substituting said second candidate PCB for said first candidate PCB if said second candidate PCB exists.

37. (Original) The system of claim 36 wherein (a5) further comprises generating an error condition if said second candidate PCB does not exist.

38. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture for use in a computer system tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer system to perform method steps for performing one or more form independent application program operations on at least one Information Management System (IMS) resource, the method comprising the following steps:

(a) locating ~~an actual~~ a Program Communication Block (PCB) associated with the at least one IMS resource exclusive of predetermined knowledge pertaining to an IMS construct form, and

(b) utilizing the ~~actual~~-PCB to perform the one or more form independent application program operations on the at least one IMS resource.

39. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 38 wherein the IMS resource is a database.

40. (Previously Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 38 wherein the IMS construct form depends from a characteristic selected from the group consisting of Program Specification Block (PSB) programming language, PCB order, and PCB quantity.

41. (Previously Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 38 wherein step (a) comprises locating an Input/Output (I/O) PCB.

42. (Previously Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 41 wherein step (b) comprises utilizing the I/O PCB to perform checkpoint processing.

43. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 38 wherein step (a) comprises the steps of:

- (a1) accessing a first candidate PCB,
- (a2) evaluating whether the first candidate PCB is the ~~actual~~-PCB, and
- (a3) utilizing information from the first candidate PCB to access the ~~actual~~-PCB if the first candidate PCB is not the ~~actual~~-PCB.

44. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 43 wherein the evaluation step (a2) comprises determining if a name field of the first candidate PCB consists of only printable characters.

45. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 43 wherein the accessing step (a1) comprises the steps of:

- (a1.1) utilizing a memory address from a register 13 to access a program save area,
- (a1.2) utilizing a memory address from the program save area to access a calling program's save area,
- (a1.3) utilizing a memory address from the calling program's save area to access a parameter list, and
- (a1.4) utilizing a memory address from the parameter list to access the first candidate PCB.

46. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 43 further comprising:

- (a4) determining if the ~~actual~~-PCB is associated with the IMS resource,
- (a5) checking for the existence of a second candidate PCB if the ~~actual~~-PCB is not associated with the IMS resource, and
- (a6) repeating steps (a2) through (a6) with substitution of the second candidate PCB for the first candidate PCB if the second candidate PCB exists.

47. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 46 wherein step (a5) further comprises generating an error condition if the second candidate PCB does not exist.

48. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 45 further comprising:

(a1.5) determining that the language environment is PASCAL if a parameter list entry in the first entry location of the parameter list is zero.